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**COCKERMOUTH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,
Charles A. Mason, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1952

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Sanitary Inspectors

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Cockermouth Rural District Council.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cockermouth Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1952, which has been drawn up in accordance with Circular 1961 of the Ministry of Health, dated 16th February, 1940 and the Registrar General's Memorandum SD/54 received June, 1953.

My thanks are again due to those Observers of Rainfall in the district, shown on page 5, for their courtesy in supplying the records.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. MASON,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres), 161,312 (inclusive of area covered by water).

Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1952)
(see page 6) (19,390).

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952) according to
Rate Book 5,816

Rateable Value £100,681.

Product of a Penny Rate £392 4s 1d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M	F	
Live Births {	Legitimate	236	156	130	Birth Rate (R.G.) (unadjusted) 14.7
	Illegitimate	12	6	6	
Still Births		3	2	1	(incl. 0 illeg.)
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 10.38.					

	Total	M	F	
Deaths	239	125	114	Crude Death Rate (R.G.) 12.3 per 1,000 of estimated resident population.

Maternal Mortality :—

Deaths from puerperal causes (childbirth) :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	0	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	1	3.4
Total	1	3.4

Infantile Mortality :—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	16
All Infants per 1,000 live births (approximately)	56
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births (approximately)	51
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births (approximately)	167
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages)	2
Deaths from Cancer	31

Table showing rainfall in inches, in 1952, compiled from observers in various parts of the district.

Observation Station	Dean School	At Crosthwaite Keswick, about 440 yards from the Cockermouth Rural District boundary	Dale Head Hall, Thirlmere	Blackwood, Braithwaite,	Cockermouth, within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of Rural District boundary
Observer	A. Casson, Esq.	T. Wilson, Esq.	Alan Atkinson Esq., Engineer to Manchester Corporation Water Works	C. Barnes Esq.	M. M. Dixon Esq. Surveyor
Diameter of Rain Gauge Funnel	5 inches	5 in.	5 in.	8 in.	5 in.
Height of gauge above ground	11 in.	1 ft.	1 ft.	1 ft.	1 ft.
Height of gauge above sea level	385 ft.	254 ft.	620 ft.	400 ft.	330 ft.
1952.	ins.	ins.	ins.	ins.	ins.
January	2.52	5.79	7.41	6.83	3.55
February	5.11	1.28	2.09	1.11	0.90
March	3.12	2.38	5.60	2.88	1.28
April	2.98	3.18	5.48	2.73	2.65
May	1.14	3.28	4.68	3.55	2.90
June	3.65	2.99	4.06	3.33	3.28
July	2.14	4.26	5.03	2.94	3.29
August	3.41	8.55	11.01	9.20	8.21
September	2.90	6.01	8.89	6.80	4.05
October	4.93	5.72	9.53	6.54	3.33
November	6.25	3.21	5.24	3.28	2.35
December	4.93	5.10	7.07	7.18	4.52
Totals	43.08	51.75	76.09	56.37	40.61
Average prev. 5 yrs 1947-51 (incl)	45.59	63.89 (Av. 50 yrs 57.64)	97.77 (Av. 75 yrs 82.01)	73.15	

Cockermouth Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the year 1952.

The area of the district in statute acres is 161,312 (approximately 4,700 of which are covered by inland water).

Fourteen parishes (Above Derwent, Bassenthwaite, Bewaldeth, etc., Blinderake, including Isel Old Park and Sunderland, Blindbothel, including Mosser and Whinfell, Borrowdale, Buttermere including Brackenthwaite, Embleton, Lorton, Loweswater and Mockerkinn, St. John's in the Vale and Castlerigg, Setmurthy, Underskiddaw, including Skiddaw, and Wythop) of the Cockermouth Rural District have been included in the Lake District National Park which was designated as such by the Parks Commissioners 30th January, 1951, and confirmed by the Minister concerned 9th May, 1951.

POPULATION.

The population figure of 19,390 is given for the year 1952 by the Registrar General and called by him the "Home population" (i.e. including members of the armed forces stationed in the area); on this figure the birth and death rates and the incidence of notifiable diseases are based.

N.B.—The population figure for 1951 was 19,560.
(calculated on the same basis as above).

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.—The total number of live births registered in and belonging to the district in 1952 was 286 (156 males and 130 females). Of these 12 (6 males and 6 females) were illegitimate. The net live birth rate is, accordingly 14.7 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 16.05 for the previous year.

In regard to Births and Deaths the Registrar General has supplied Area Comparability Factors, which allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas and are used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas. The factor for births is 1.08, adjusting the birth rate, therefore, to 15.8.

Birth Rate comparisons may be given as follows :—

		Adjusted
1952—Cumberland	17.3	
Rural Districts of Cumberland	17.0	
Urban Districts of Cumberland	17.6	
England and Wales	15.5	
Cockermouth Rural District	14.7	15.8

The percentage of illegitimate live births was approximately 4.1 as compared with 3.5 in 1951.

Still Births—3 still births (none being illegitimate) were also registered, giving a still birth rate of 0.15 per 1,000 of the population, being 0.40 for 1951. (The rate for all England and Wales was 0.35).

The still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births was 10.39 as compared with 24.8 for 1951 (England and Wales 22.6).

DEATHS.

The number of deaths (civilian and non-civilian), registered as belonging to the district was 239 (125 males and 114 females) i.e., after correcting for non-residents dying within the district and for those persons whose usual residence was within the district dying outside the district. This gives a crude death rate of 12.3 per 1,000 of the population compared with 11.9 for the previous year.

The comparability factor for adjusting the crude death rate (for the reasons explained above under 'Births') is 0.96. The adjusted death rate for Cockermouth Rural District was, therefore 11.8.

Comparisons of crude death rates are shown below :—

	Crude	Adjusted
Death Rates, 1952— Cumberland	12.1	
Rural Districts of Cumberland	11.6	
Urban Districts of Cumberland	12.9	
England and Wales	11.3	
Cockermouth Rural District	12.3	11.8

(For causes of death during the year see table on page 8)

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 16 deaths of infants under one year of age—giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of, approximately, 56 per 1,000 births as compared with 38 for the preceding year.

Comparisons may be given as follows :—

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1952—

Cumberland	...	...	32
Rural Districts of Cumberland	..	...	34
Urban Districts of Cumberland	...	...	29
England and Wales	...	...	27.6
Cockermouth Rural District	...	...	56

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1952.

Causes of Death		All Causes	Males	Females
			125	114
1	Tuberculosis. Respiratory	...	1	1
2	" Other	...	1	0
3	Syphilitic disease	..	0	0
4	Diphtheria	..	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	..	0	0
6	Meningo-Coccal infections	...	0	0
7	Acute Polio-myelitis	..	0	0
8	Measles	..	0	0
9	Other infeqtive and parasitic diseases	...	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	1	3
11	" " lung.	...	3	2
12	" " breast	...	0	6
13	" " Uterus	..	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	8	8
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	..	0	0
16	Diabetes	...	0	2
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	21	14
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	27	14
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	3	4
20	Other heart disease	...	19	27
21	Other circulatory disease	...	3	8
22	Influenza	...	0	1
23	Pneumonia	...	2	0
24	Bronchitis	...	3	3
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	1	2
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	2	2
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	1	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	2	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	3	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	0	1
31	Congenital malformations	..	0	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	18	12
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	4	0
34	All other accidents	...	1	1
35	Suicide	..	1	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	0	0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total		...	12	4
Legitimate		...	10	4
Illegitimate		...	2	0
			M	F
LIVE BIRTHS	Total	...	156	130
	Legitimate	...	150	124
	Illegitimate	...	6	6
STILL BIRTHS	Total	..	2	1
	Legitimate	..	2	1
	Illegitimate	..	0	0

POPULATION (for Births and Deaths), 1952. R.G.—(see p. 6) 19,390

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1952.

Net Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages
under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under One Year
Birth Injury	2				2					2
Prematurity	5				5					5
Acute lobar pneumonia	1				1					1
Acute Bronchitis							1			1
Cerebral haemorrhage		1			1					1
Erythroblastosis	1				1					1
Gastro-enteritis						1			1	2
Tuberculosis.—lung and meninges								1		1
Congenital malformation		1			1					1
Haemorrhagic disease of newborn	1				1					1
All Causes (certified)	10	2			12	1	1	1	1	16 <small>RG</small>

7 of the deaths in the first column occurred within twenty-four hours, or thereabouts, after birth, 3 in 3 days and 1 in 4 days.

Two deaths occurred among illegitimate infants so that the Illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate was approximately 167 per 1,000 illegitimate births, as compared with 14 deaths among legitimate infants giving a Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate of approximately 51 per 1,000 legitimate births. These rates were respectively 182 and 33 for the previous year.

(For Infant Mortality Table see page 9).

SENILE DEATH RATE.

162 persons (78 males and 84 females) had attained the age of 65 or upwards. This number represents a Senile death rate of 67.7 per cent of the total deaths as compared with 167 senile deaths with a percentage of 71.3 for 1951.

39	(20m 19f)	persons	died	between the ages of	65 and 70 years
30	(18m 12f)	"	"	"	70 and 75
42	(21m 21f)	"	"	"	75 and 80
30	(10m 20f)	"	"	"	80 and 85
16	(7m 9f)	"	"	"	85 and 90
5	(2m 3f)	"	"	"	90 and 95

INQUESTS, UNCERTIFIED DEATHS AND VIOLENCE.

In respect of deaths belonging to the district during the year, there were 9 inquests (4 of which were held outside the district).

Nine Coroner's Certificates were received of cases where post mortem examinations had been made but no inquest held.

18 post mortem examinations were known to have been carried out (these include inquest cases).

Eight deaths were uncertified (1951—9).

Violence.—The death rate to Violence (all forms) was 0.464 per 1000 of the population in the Cockermouth Rural District. Below will be seen the number of deaths from Suicide, Road Traffic Accidents, Other Violence and the Total Violence deaths, together with the percentages of the total deaths from all causes, and the death rates of each 1,000 of the population in comparison with 1951 :—

	Suicide		Road Traffic Accidents		Other Violence excl'g Road Traffic Acc.		Total Violence	
	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951
Deaths	2	2	5	0	7	6	9	8
% of all causes	.83	.85	2.09	0	.41	2.56	3.765	3.419
D R. pr 1000 population	.103	.102	.257	0	.051	.306	.464	.408

Deaths from Violence in 1952 include: 1 from accidental injuries received in a coal-mine; 5 from accidental injuries received in road accidents (including 1 involving motor car with motor-cycle and 2 with pedal cycle, 1 due to being knocked down by motor vehicle and 1 by pedal cycle), 2 Suicide (1 by drowning and 1 by aspirin poisoning) and 1 from accidental fracture of femur in an elderly person.

CANCER.

Cancer proved fatal in 31 cases, as follows :—

System	Primary Organ	Males.	Females.
Alimentary	Oesophagus	..	2
	Stomach	..	1 2
	Bowel	..	1 3
	Rectum	..	1 1
Respiratory	Lung	..	2 3
Glandular	Breast	..	5
	Pancreas	..	1
	Prostate	..	1
Hepatic	Liver	...	1
	Bile duct	...	1
Excretory	Kidney	...	1
	Bladder	...	1 2
Other	Tongue	...	1
	Lip	...	1

				yrs. of age
1	of the deaths (m)	occurred	among persons between	30 and 40
3	"	((1 m 2 f)	"	40 and 50
1	"	(f)	"	50 and 60
12	"	(7 m 5 f)	"	60 and 70
11	"	(4 m 7 f)	"	70 and 80
3	"	(f)	"	80 and 90

The 31 deaths correspond to a death rate of 1.59 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 30 deaths and a death rate of 1.53 in 1951. Approximately out of every 8 deaths of persons in this district one was due to cancer (1951—1 in 8; 1950—1 in 12).

TUBERCULOSIS.

Vide also page 28.

There were only 3 deaths due to Tuberculosis.—

	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory System	1	1	2
Other Forms	1	0	1
All cases	2	1	3

All of the deaths were of previously notified cases, including two in this district.

The total gives a tuberculosis (all forms) death rate of .15 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with .20 for 1951.

The death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was .10 per 1,000 of the population—the same as the previous year.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

1. Part-time Medical Officer of Health.
2. Two full-time Sanitary Inspectors :—

(i.) Senior S.I.—Mr. George Nelson, who holds the Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and also a special Certificate of the London City Guilds for Sanitation and Plumbing.

(ii) Additional S.I.—Mr. Reginald Mather, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board.

3. Mr. Denys Hinde, clerk and assistant. The department also had the use of a temporary clerk.

The work of the Council's Engineering Staff (Sanitary and Water) under Mr A. E. Simpson, A.M.I.C.E., is to some extent connected with this department.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council is the Authority responsible for this important public service (taking over in 1948). Under their comprehensive Ambulance Scheme for Cumberland the provision made for this district has remained adequate.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.

Generally speaking, with few exceptions, this district is well covered with public and private water mains.

The population supplied from public mains direct to houses is estimated as 17,044 and houses supplied, approximately, 5,097. See below (table).

There are no properties in this district which are supplied by standpipes provided by the local authority (Section 128, P.H.A., 1936).

The estimated number of dwelling houses and population supplied from public water mains direct to houses for each Parish is shown in the following table.

Parish	Houses	Population	Parish	Houses	Population.
Above Derwent	325	890	Crosscanonby	256	877
Allerby and Coughterside	174	635	Dearham	565	2024
Bassenthwaite	82	250	Dean	219	737
Bewaldeth	6	19	Embleton	66	258
Blindcrake	77	269	Gilcrux	103	374
Bothel	91	353	Greysouthen	143	460
Bridekirk	120	700	Lorton	62	178
Broughton	436	1320	Loweswater	8	25
Broughton Moor	234	880	Papcastle	78	250
Blindbothel	12	30	Plumbland	156	565
Borrowdale	66	220	Seaton	837	2361
Brigham	233	860	St. Johns in the Vale	1	4
Buttermere	—	—	Setmurthy	29	113
Camerton	60	225	Underskiddaw	39	118
Clifton, Great	401	1340	Winscales	67	186
Clifton Little	140	475	Wythop	11	48
			Totals	5097	17044

Six samples of water were taken for analysis and the results given as follows :—

1. (8-1-52) Cottages at High Armaside, Lorton.

From tap on a private supply. The report stated the water was bacteriologically unsatisfactory. The owner has since improved the intake.

2. (8-4-52) High Nook Beck, Loweswater.

Sample taken at proposed source of an extension to Holm Beck Scheme. The result of examination is satisfactory, but it is recommended the water should be treated for a public supply.

3. (8-4-52) Coombe Ghyll Scheme, Borrowdale.

Taken at a tap at Fourways, Rosthwaite, from the public supply. Examination shows it to be a highly satisfactory water.

4. (8-4-52) Stoneycroft Scheme, Portinscale.

Taken at the tap at Portinscale Post Office. The water is satisfactory for drinking purposes.

5. (8-4-52) Troutdale Beck, Grange-in-Borrowdale.

Taken at proposed source of extension to the Grange public supply. There is no evidence of gross pollution and treatment should make it safe for drinking purposes.

6. (25-3-52) Little Crosthwaite Cottages, Underskiddaw.

Taken from a spring at the proposed source of private supply for three cottages. Bacteriologically a highly satisfactory water.

Renewal of water mains during the year :

- 170 lineal yards of 2 inch main at Causeway Road, Seaton.
- 277 lineal yards of 3 inch main at Grange in Borrowdale.

Extensions of water mains :

- 506 lineal yards of 3 inch main at N.E.H.A. site at Seaton.
- 187 lineal yards of 1½ inch main at N.E.H.A. site at Seaton.
- 153 lineal yards of 3 inch main at N.E.H.A. site at Broughton.

Improvement works :

The chlorination plant at Bewaldeth (on the Hause Ghyll Supply) was put into operation in June.

A chlorination plant has also been installed by the Workington Corporation for the Crummock Water Scheme which supplies a considerable portion of the Rural population.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No new schemes were completed during the year.

Sewer Extensions :

- 210 lin. yds. of 6 inch sewer to N.E.H.A. site at Seaton.

Thornthwaite and Branthwaite :

As specially mentioned in the Annual Report for 1951 public sewers at Thornthwaite and Branthwaite are necessary.

Particularly is this so in the case of the Thornthwaite area where in a commendable effort to provide modern sanitary conveniences, owners of properties have installed water closets and baths, but have no suitable land or facilities for drainage treatment. The result is that the overflows from cesspools and tanks discharge into gutters and streams which not only constitute objectionable nuisances, but are a real danger to public health. Dairy cattle have access to these gutters also the gutters and streams eventually discharge into a water supply river.

Plans and details of a public sewerage scheme for the area have been submitted to the Ministry after approval by the County Council but in spite of several approaches by the Rural District Council and complaints by inhabitants and the local Parish Council, sanction to proceed with this much needed scheme has not yet been granted by the Ministry. No doubt the Council will again press for permission to proceed with a scheme for the Thornthwaite area as an urgent matter in the interests of public health for it seems wrong in principle that finance in this case should take precedence over a vital matter of public health.

SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS.

Where public sewers have been provided the drainage of 22 houses was connected, and 12 closets were converted to the water carriage system, the remainder already having water closets but without suitable drainage outlets and treatment.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

As will be seen by the table below, the total cost of the services for the year was £4,027 5s 2d, and covered approximately 5,366 houses. This gives a figure of approximately 15s per house per annum or 3½d per week.

The following Parishes or Parts are covered by the Council's vehicle with direct labour :—Dean (including Ullock, Branthwaite, Pardshaw, Deanscales and Eaglesfield), Bridekirk (including Dovenby and Tallantire), Papcastle, Seaton, Broughton Moor, Buttermere, Loweswater (including Mockerkirk), Blindbothel (including Rogerscale and Mosser), Bassenthwaite (including Chapel Area and Castle Inn), Sunderland and Isel, Greysouthen, Lorton, and part of Winscales.

The remaining parts of the district where collection is made are covered by contractors :

1952 Parish (or part)	Approx. No. of houses	Total Cost £ s. d.
Allerby & Oughterside	179	130 2 11
Above Derwent	325	371 15 9
Blindbothel	22	59 2 8
Borrowdale	138	179 15 0
Bassenthwaite	114	59 2 8
Bridekirk	113	131 10 10
Brigham (and Broughton Cross)	246	120 11 6
Broughton	389	177 15 6
Broughton Moor	233	118 5 3
Blindcrake	58	65 13 0
Bothel and Threapland	89	97 16 7
Buttermere	48	59 4 8
Crosscanonby	262	166 14 7
Camerton	60	35 16 6
Dearham	562	396 16 7
Dean	220	184 12 9
Embleton	47	69 0 0
Gilcrux	82	70 16 7
Greysouthen	146	79 3 11
Clifton, Great	392	163 9 7
Clifton (Little) and Bridgefoot	139	61 6 8
Lorton	92	119 16 9
Loweswater	48	59 2 8
Papcastle	89	144 11 11
Plumbland	140	153 7 10
St. Johns-in-the-Vale	132	139 4 0
Seaton	820	367 1 11
Selmurthy	21	18 14 0
Underskiddaw	102	126 6 0
Winscales (Furnace Row)	41	81 12 7
Wythop	16	18 14 0
	<hr/> 5,366	<hr/> £4,027 5 2

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The inclusive summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspectors, in accordance with Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, will be found at the end of this report (commencing on page 31).

Duties additional to the normal routine continued to be undertaken as a result of Post-War conditions.

I again record my appreciation of the friendly co-operation of the Council's staff as a whole, and especially that of the two willing and very assiduous Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. G. Nelson and Mr. R. Mather. I am, also, again, particularly indebted to Mr. Nelson, Chief Sanitary Inspector, for his truly invaluable assistance in the compilation of my annual report.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

There are 120 shops on the register and 216 inspections were made.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The following table shows the position in this district at the end of 1952 :

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written notices	Defects found	Defects remedied
(i) Factories in which Sects. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	27	72	2	2	2
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	45	52	2	2	2
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	4	0	0	0
TOTALS	73	128	4	4	4

(Section 1 refers to cleanliness, 2 to overcrowding, 3 to temperature, 4 to ventilation, 6 to drainage of floors, 7 to sanitary conveniences)

HOLIDAY CAMPING.

18 Camping licences were issued (or renewed), 11 for camping sites and 7 for individual caravans.

Experience shows that the provisions in the Public Health Act, 1936, have remained inadequate for the satisfactory administration of this branch of public health duties. The repeal of the adopted powers held by this Council prior to the passing of the Public Health Act, 1936, has been a distinct disadvantage.

Housing.

PLANS PASSED :—

- (a) New Dwellinghouses 163 (including 143 North Eastern Housing Association).
- (b) Enlargement or renovation of dwelling houses 38.
- (c) Other buildings 52.

20 private houses and 64 N.E.H.A. were completed during the year.

Difficulties in getting repairs carried out have continued throughout the year, these being chiefly due to high costs and lack of sufficient skilled building labour. These difficulties are, of course, general throughout the country and many owners find it financially impossible to carry out costly repairs in face of restricted rents.

It seems clear that an adjustment of the Rents Restriction Acts is urgently necessary if further depreciation of older properties is to be arrested and the health of the occupants safeguarded.

33 licences were issued for repairs and necessary improvements where the cost exceeded £200 per house.

POST WAR HOUSING.

The Council has continued to make progress in the erection of new houses as far as circumstances would permit and during the year 64 more new houses were completed on behalf of the Council by the North Eastern Housing Association and 20 by private persons making a total for the year of 84 and a grand total of post war houses up to the end of 1952 of 721 (608 by the Council and 113 by private persons)—all of traditional type.

The table below shows the localities in which houses have been built by or for the Council (both pre- and post-war) and from which the progressive policy of the Council will be appreciated.

Due consideration has been given to the needs of the great variety of applicants, including Agricultural, Industrial, Professional and Aged Persons.

Houses built and owned by the Council—153.

Seaton (Lowca Lane)	12	Belle Vue	8
Seaton (Derwent Avenue)	28	Oughterside	12
Seaton (Leslie's Estate)	34 x	Broughton	12
Great Clifton	48	Braithwaite	4

Houses built and owned by the N.E. Housing Association—862.

Dearham (Croft Crescent)	40	Great Clifton (Gavels)	36
Dearham (Towncroft)	78 x	Gl. Clifton (Bowflatts)	70
Braithwaite	6	Gl. Clifton (Stoneycroft)	44 x
Crosby (Suncroft)	30 x	Broughton Moor (Lacock Av.)	40
Crosby (agricultural workers)	2	Broughton Moor (Moorfie'ds)	32 x
Seaton (Barncroft area)	70		6 x
Seaton (Hunters Drive area)	148 x	Deanscales	
Bethel	12 x	Plumbland (agricultural workers)	2
Bassenthwaite	14 x	Plumbland (The Muslins)	20 x
Brigham	46 x	Pardshaw	2
Broughton (Grange Avenue)	20	Blinderake	4 x
Broughton (Ghyllbank)	60 x	Allerby	2 x
Little Clifton	32 x	Gilcrux	2 x
Oughterside	4 x	Greysouthen	12 x
Applethwaite	4 x	Rosthwaite	12 x
Crosscanonby	2 x	Winscales	2 x
Camerton	6 x		
Bridekirk	2 x		

(Post-war schemes are denoted by x)

Total number of post-war houses built by or on behalf of the Council—608.

The grand total (pre- and post-war) at the end of 1952 was 1020.

In continuation of the Council's post war efforts, sanction was obtained and at the time of writing further houses are in course of erection at Seaton, Broughton, Lorton, Little Clifton, Dearham (for agricultural workers), Great Clifton (Clifton Lodge Site) and Brigham.

Site clearance and purchase has also been concluded in respect of 22 houses at Braithwaite (14 for the Council and 8 for the Forestry Commissioners). This somewhat ill-fated scheme has been the subject of many conferences and much correspondence all causing unnecessary delay and an additional expenditure on siting arrangements which might well have been avoided with advantage.

Other negotiations in hand are for further houses at Great Clifton adjoining Bowe Flatts, chiefly for miners), Camerton, Broughton Moor, Greysouthen, Seaton and Crosby.

The following table shows the present figures on the waiting lists in the District, which total 474.

Although the total on the waiting lists is 474, it does not follow that this number of new houses is required to meet the present needs, but on the other hand allowance must be made for occupied houses which are condemned or are condemnable and not likely to be renovated or modernised, and, it may be mentioned, some of these occupants have not applied for a new house.

Since Local Authorities are responsible for providing houses to meet the needs of their respective districts, it is obvious there can be no finality in housing work.

Waiting Lists—December, 1952.

Seaton	102	Great Clifton	74	Broughton	51
Broughton Moor	30	Brigham	36	Dearham	36
Oughterside	17	Braithwaite	26	Crosby	27
Borrowdale	9	Greysouthen	10	Little Clifton	9
Lorton	9	Plumbland	13	Others	25

While waiting lists are subject to constant variation, the above table does give some indication of the present position. At the same time there has been a recent tendency for some applicants to refuse the tenancies of new houses on account of high rents, although their need for better accommodation still exists.

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

During 1952 approval was given in six cases where plans had been submitted and applications made for Improvement Grants under the above Act.

The full position is as follows :

Applications for grants approved to date.	Works completed and grants paid to date.	Applications approved in 1952	Works completed and grants paid in 1952.
13	9	6	7

Housing Appendix.

STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 185
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 381
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932 (Brought up to date) 0
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 0
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 7

- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 178

2 Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 67

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By owners 0
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 14
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By owners 14
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 2
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 4

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground in respect of which Closing Orders were made 3
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948—SECTION 47.

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention on the certificate of the Medical Officer of Health.

Under the above Act provision is made for removal to suitable premises for care and attention any persons who:—

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

During the year no cases required to be dealt with.

THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

Systematic inspections have been made and appropriate action taken in connection with the above and in order to comply with requirements it has been necessary to have assistance of some of the Council's workmen in connection with sewer baiting.

Claims have been submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for re-inbursement in connection with cost of rat-poisons and workmen's time and travelling. For the financial year ending 31st March, 1952, 50% of the cost (£11 9s) was refunded by the Ministry.

Co-operation of the County Pests Officers has been very helpful throughout the year.

Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

Under the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, new regulations came into force on the 1st October, 1949, when the duties and powers relating to the production of milk on the farms were transferred from County and Local Sanitary Authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture. This transfer also meant the end of the joint sampling scheme (for the detection of T.B. and the estimation of cleanliness) between the Cumberland County Council and the Local Authorities in the County which had served a very useful purpose covering many years.

It was later found, however, that no arrangements had been made for sampling milk (for the detection of T.B.) from ungraded herds where milk was retailed in the County. The County Council were seriously concerned in this matter and being responsible under the Food and Drugs Act for the sampling for T.B., they called a conference of all local authorities within the County to consider what could be done as a measure of protection of the public against possible milk-borne infection by Tubercle Bacilli

This resulted in a scheme of co-operation in the sampling of ungraded milk retailed to the public within the County, the appropriate Officers of the Local Authorities taking the samples and submitting them to the Cumberland Laboratory and the County Council paying the costs. This scheme was put into operation as from 1st May, 1950, and during the year 1952, 169 samples were taken by your Public Health Department, 168 of which proved negative for T.B., 1 being positive.

Although under the new regulations the production side of this work (dairy farms) was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture the portions dealing with retail distribution and dairies (not farms) are still the responsibility of the local sanitary authorities, as is also all drainage.

Local Authorities must keep a register of retailers and their dairy premises. There are 115 registered retailers in this district of which 103 are producer retailers and 12 retailers only.

I am indebted to Mr J. K. S. Elmslie, the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture for the following return of figures relating to the eradication of tuberculous bovines :—

Particulars of Animals slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938, from premises registered in the Cockermouth Rural District, during the year. 1952

Total number of Animals Slaughtered	...	1
Cows in Milk	..	1
Other Cows or Heifers	..	0
Other Bovine Animals	..	0
Types of Disease found on post-mortem.		
Tuberculosis of Udder	..	1
Tuberculosis with Emaciation	..	0
Tuberculosis with Chronic Cough and showing definite Clinical signs	...	0

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Since January, 1940, all slaughtering in private slaughter houses was suspended by the Ministry of Food as a war-time measure and all slaughtering has been (and is being) carried on in regional slaughter houses.

Private slaughter-houses in the district have therefore only been used as meat stores and for making-up purposes, the butchers receiving their supplies of meat from Maryport Abattoir.

By arrangement with the Maryport Urban District Council assistance continues to be rendered, as and when required, in the work of meat inspection at the Maryport Abattoir by the appropriate officials of this (C.R.D.) Council.

In addition, 117 inspections have been made of meat stores in the district.

A list of articles of food condemned will be seen in the Sanitary's Inspector's Report on Page 30.

BAKEHOUSES:—

There are 6 registered bakehouses in the district. 54 inspections were made during the year but no serious defects found.

ICE CREAM:—

Registered premises for manufacture or sale	21
Inspections made	61

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases. — The total number of Infectious Diseases notified during 1952 in the Cockermouth Rural District, including Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis, was 83. Excluding Measles and Whooping Cough (vide post) the number was 57. (The figure for 1951 was 71).

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1952.

Disease	Total cases notified in C.R.D.	Cases notified 1951 admitted to hospital	Deaths of 1951 notified cases
Small-pox	.. 0	0	0
Diphtheria	.. 0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	.. 30	12	0
Enteric Fever (including nil Para-typhoid)	.. 0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	.. 2	2	0
Pneumonia (all forms)	.. 3	0	0
Erysipelas	.. 3	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	.. 0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	.. 0	0	0
Ac. Poliomyelitis	.. 3	3	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	.. 0	0	0
Measles	.. 18	0	0
Whooping Cough	.. 8	0	0
Dysentery (Sonne)	.. 0	0	0
Food Poisoning	... 1	1	0
Tuberculosis:—			
Pulmonary	Males 6	3 (San. or Hosp.)	0
	Females 8	3	0
Non-Pulmonary	Males 1	0	0
	Females 1	1	0

Table showing monthly incidence of notifiable diseases, 1952 :—

Disease	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	J'ly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec.
Scarlet Fever	2	2	1	2	6		6			1	5	5—30
Pneumonia (all forms)		1		1		1						— 3
Erysipelas	2										1	— 3
Measles					1		2	2	3	1	3	6—18
Whoop. Cough			2	1	3			2				— 8
Ac. Poliomyelitis								1	1		1	— 3
Puerperal Pyrexia	1								1			— 2
Food Poisoning							1					— 1
Tuberculosis :												
Pulmonary	2		1	2		2		1	2	2	2	—14
Other Forms					1							— 1

From notifications received it is deduced that 1 in every 340 persons in this district contracted a disease notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act (Chickenpox, Measles and Whooping Cough excluded) and Tuberculosis Regulations. (In 1951 the figures were 1 in 275).

(Vide Post re Measles and Whooping Cough).

Diphtheria.—There were no notifications so that the case rate was nil per 1,000 of the population as compared with .05 (refers to one case unconfirmed bacteriologically) for 1951 and nil for 1950, 1949 and 1948. The corresponding rate for all England and Wales was .01.

There has been no death from Diphtheria since 1944 (and that it may be remembered, was of a boy who had not been immunised). The rate (1952) for England and Wales was 0.00.

The immunisation campaign against Diphtheria was continued as before (entailing, as usual, a lot of unseen work). Most of the actual inoculations were again given by me at the local public elementary schools and at Cockermouth School Clinic; co-operation of local Medical Practitioners, Head Teachers, the various District Nurses, and in particular, the County Health Visitor, Miss Horn, is hereby, again, gratefully acknowledged.

According to figures kindly supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer, Dr. J. L. Hunter, during the year under review 136 public elementary school children from 5 to 14 years of age, and 224 infants under 5 years old were given primary injections (two at intervals of a few weeks).

Although the 5-14 years group increased its number by 65 over the previous year in 'Primary' inoculations there was a decrease in 10 in the group of infants under 5 years of age. To make more certain that Diphtheria does not re-appear it is necessary to have a high level of immunisation among children generally and particularly in the under 5 years group. It is to be hoped that any downward trend in numbers in this latter group is only temporary.

463 children received a single re-inforcing dose (these are children who received the two primary doses 4 to 5 years previously).

Regarding Scarlet Fever there were 30 cases, and chiefly mild in type (1951—46). Vide distribution table, page 28, thirteen were removed to Hospital. No death occurred so that the death rate per 1,000 of the population from Scarlet Fever was therefore, nil.

The case rate of Scarlet Fever per 1,000 of the population was accordingly 1.54 as compared with 2.35 for 1951. (The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 1.53, and death rate .09)

There being no notification of Typhoid or Para-Typhoid Fevers their case rates and death rates were respectively nil per 1,000 of the population. (For England and Wales in 1952 the Typhoid and Para-Typhoid case rates were respectively .00 and .02, and the death rates, respectively of these two fevers were 0.00 and 0.00).

Three cases of Pneumonia were notified, and all three recovered. There were two registered deaths from this disease (all forms).

3 cases of Acute Poliomyelitis (paralytic) were notified—1 in August in Borrowdale, 1 September, Plumland, 1 November, Seaton—the source of infection was untraced in each instance and the August case was that of a boy visitor from W. Hartlepool. All three received hospital treatment of course.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Encephalitis Lethargica, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and Dysentery (Sonne)—No notifications.

Two notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia were received (this term includes Puerperal Fever).

The case rate for Puerperal Pyrexia is better expressed in relation to the number of births registered rather than to the population. When calculated on this basis the rate was 6.92 per 1,000 total births (i.e. live and still births) as compared with nil last year. The corresponding rate for all England and Wales (1952) was 17.87.

One maternal death was recorded, so that the Maternal Mortality (all causes) rate was therefore 3.4 per 1,000 total (live and still) births, as compared with nil for 1951, (1950, 1949 and 1948—nil).

Tuberculosis.—Under the Tuberculosis Regulations 14 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (6 males and 8 females) and 2 of Other forms of Tuberculosis (1 male, 1 female) were notified during the year under review. Of those notified during the year six pulmonary cases (3 males and 3 females) were admitted to Sanatorium, whilst one (male) died. Among previously notified and inward transfer cases (and including re-admittances) 5 cases (1 male and 4 females, pulmonary) were admitted to Sanatorium and one non-pulmonary (spinal) to Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

A statement regarding the total deaths from Tuberculosis will be found on page 11.

The following table gives the number of new cases and Mortality (all cases) :—

1952 Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
45—55	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	8	1	1	1	1	1	0

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1952 was as follows :

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	43	54	97
Non-pulmonary	6	10	16
All Cases	52	59	113

Non Notifiable Acute Infectious Disease.—Influenza was not so prevalent. One death was attributed to this disease—equivalent, therefore, to an influenza death rate of .05 per 1,000 of the population as compared with .20 (four deaths) in 1951. The rate for England and Wales (1952) was 0.04.

Re Measles and Whooping Cough (which both became notifiable as from 1st November, 1939)—see monthly incidence table page 24. According to Measles notifications received seven parishes were affected—Plumbland 1, Bothel 7, Crosby 1, Underskiddaw 1, Seaton 1, Dearham 3, Blinderake 4—Notifications totalling 18. Notified Whooping Cough cases occurred in three parishes, there being 8 notifications—Dearham 2, Plumbland 1, Allerby and Oughterside 5.

The case rates of Measles and Whooping Cough (as per notifications received) were respectively 0.92 and 0.41 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 8.86 and 2.61 for all England and Wales.

No death occurred from either Measles or Whooping Cough, the death rate per 1,000 of the population for each disease, respectively, being therefore, nil, as compared with 0.01 and 0.00 in England and Wales.

Hospital accommodation as provided by the West Cumberland Joint Hospital Board for infectious diseases remains more or less unaltered.

During 1952 no public elementary school in the Cockermouth Rural District was closed on account of Infectious Disease.

The following table shows the incidence of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Typhoid Fever in the various parishes:—

1952					
Parish	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fever		
Above Derwent	—	2	—		
Allerby and Oughterside	—	—	—		
Bassenthwaite	—	—	—		
Bewaldeth, &c.	—	—	—		
Blindcrake, incl. Isel Old Park and Sunderland	—	—	—		
Bothel and Threapland	—	1	—		
Bridekirk, (incl. Dovenby Tallantire)	—	—	—		
Gt. and Lt. Broughton	—	—	—		
Broughton Moor	—	—	—		
Blindbothel incl. Mosser & Whinfell	—	—	—		
Borrowdale	—	1	—		
Brigham	—	—	—		
Buttermere, incl. Brackenthwaite	—	—	—		
Camerton, incl. Ribton	—	—	—		
Great Clifton	—	—	—		
Little Clifton	—	—	—		
Crosscanonby	—	1	—		
Dearham	—	11	—		
Dean, incl. Eaglesfield &c.	—	—	—		
Embleton	—	—	—		
Gilcrux	—	3	—		
Greysouthen	—	—	—		
Lorton	—	—	—		
Loweswater and Mockerkin	—	—	—		
Papcastle	—	—	—		
Plumbland, &c.	—	5	—		
Seaton	—	6	—		
St. John's-in-the-Vale	—	—	—		
Setmurthy	—	—	—		
Underskiddaw, incl. Skiddaw	—	—	—		
Winscales	—	—	—		
Wythop	—	—	—		
Totals	0	30	0		

Summary supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical Officer of Health in pursuance of Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations 1935.

Sanitary Inspectors' Summary for the year ending December 31st, 1952.

NUISANCES :—

Complaints received	...	103
Nuisances observed	...	221
Nuisances abated	...	141
Nuisances unabated or work in hand	...	80
Sanitary conveniences repaired	...	26
Drains tested	...	42
New laid drains	...	36
New gully traps fixed	...	62
New chambers constructed	...	31
Septic tanks and filters constructed (private)	...	19
New water closets fixed	...	21

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING :—

Licences issued respecting essential repairs to dwelling houses (where cost was over £200)	...	33
--	-----	----

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :—

Visits to infectious cases	...	42
Patients removed to isolation hospital	...	16
Houses disinfected	...	34

WATER SUPPLIES :—

Houses visited with special reference to water supplies	...	37
Houses provided with supplies from public mains (Including new houses)	...	89
Old connections and service pipes renewed	...	25
Samples of water taken for analysis (see page 13)	...	6

HOUSING :—

Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	...	95
Number of inspections made	...	189
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	7
Representations made	...	7
Houses with structural or other defects (exclusive of item 3).	...	82
Houses, defects remedied	...	41
Demolition orders served	...	2
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders (served prior to 1952)	...	4
Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	...	90
Number of visits made under the Public Health Acts	...	194
Number of houses with defects (structural)	...	90
Number of houses with defects repaired	...	39

CAMPING :—

Licences issued under P.H.A. 1936 (Section 269)		
(Including renewals) Camping sites 11	}	18
Individual Movable dwellings 7		
Visits of inspection	...	82

SEWERING :—

Inspections (including interviews with owners of properties) regarding the provision of new sanitary arrangements and drainage connections	...	104
Private drains connected to public sewers (not including new houses)	...	22
Privies converted to water carriage system	...	12
New water closets built	...	12
New gully traps fixed	...	51
New chambers constructed	...	21

DAIRIES :—

On the register at the end of the year :		
Producers and retailers	...	103
Retail purveyors	...	12
Samples of milk taken (see page 23)	...	169

SLAUGHTER HOUSES and MEAT and FOOD INSPECTION :—

Number of slaughter houses on the register (now used as meat stores)	...	14
Number of licenced slaughtermen	...	66
Inspections made	...	117
Condemned in private traders' shops or stores :		
12oz. tins of Luncheon meat	12	
1lb. tins of stewed steak	5	
14lb. tin of pork	1	

FACTORIES :—

On the register at the end of the year	...	72
Visits of inspection	...	128

SHOPS ACT, 1934 :—

Registered premises	...	120
Visits of inspection	...	216

BAKEHOUSES :—

On the register	...	6
Visits of inspection	...	54

ICE CREAM :—

Registered premises for manufacture and sale	...	1
Registered premises for sale only	...	20
Inspections	...	61

REFUSE REMOVAL :—

Foul ashpits reported and cleansed	...	10
Number of houses from which refuse is removed by Council's contractors and direct service	...	5366

NOTICES :—

Under the Public Health Acts (Intimatory)	...	408
Under the Public Health Acts (Statutory)	...	15
Under the Housing Acts (Intimatory)	...	68
Under the Housing Acts (Statutory)	...	32

GEORGE NELSON, M.S.I.A.,
Senior Sanitary and Housing Inspector.

